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Joseph R. Pleier  
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Hi, Joe -

Hope you had a good Veterans Day - and your life is well.

I don't know if you have heard any of what's been happening in my Life, but I can just summarize that my wife Helen died back in 2006, and then last year my "#1 son" Douglas died. Since then, partly as a memorial effort, I am working on a book entitled *Blackledge Stories*. Besides a memorial to them, it will include some of my own life, of which our Academy years were transformative for me. But my memory is not that great.

Can you recall who was in our Plebe Year room, and when? Who did you begin Plebe Year with? I remember we had a 4-man room, would you agree? Here is what I think I know:

Plebe summer: Chaos dominates; Gary Baldwin in charge due to his prior Navy service.

Plebe (academic) year: we begin in 6th Company (LCdr Robertson).

**First rooming situation:** Tom McNulty, Dave Heatwole, M. Blackledge

then McNulty and Heatwole are dismissed, and Blackledge, the Lone Survivor, is moved into a 4-person room after Gil Maines has also left:

**Second rooming situation:** C.E. Dehnert, T.V. Russell, Joe Pleier, M.A. Blackledge

I think TV (Theodore Vernon) Russell qualified our company of plebes for carry on until the Army-Navy game - what do you remember?

**Theodore Vernon (T.V.) Russell** who had all of us 6th Co plebes 'color in between the lines' for our Company display for "Beat Army!" with his vision: a Disney (Snow White) theme: "Prince Navy awakens the Sleeping Victory" We had all the seven dwarfs, the full nine-yards. [wish I had a photo] We won the Brigade-wide competition!

Then T.V. Russell leaves:

**Third rooming situation:** C.E. Dehnert, Ron Saqui, Joe Pleier, M.A. Blackledge

**Charles Eugene (Gene) Dehnert** who spent the previous year at Notre Dame, and would burst back into our room each afternoon after athletic workout, "All hail the greatest fencer in all Anne Arundel County!"

**Joseph R. (Joe) Pleier** who hailed from South Philly and was the first of our classmates to call me "Blackie".

I think I roomed with Ron Saqui for all of youngster and second class year. I roomed with Ross K. Anderson Jr. for 1st class year.

Joe, I am hoping you have some memories of those far away times and can help me as a contributor to *Blackledge Stories*. What I want most from you are a few memories from plebe year. If you would be willing to provide more, perhaps a war story or two, some summary of your former Marine Corps life or South Philly stories, and any other events or memories you would like to share.

- With Hope and Affection,